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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/618,365	07/18/2000	Khanh Trang Nguyen	IGT1P022	8884

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BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP
P.O. BOX 778
BERKELEY, CA 94704-0778

EXAMINER

HUYNH, KIM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2189

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/618,365

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN ET AL.

Examiner

Kim T. Huynh

Art Unit

2189

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Title

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Acres et al. (U.S Patent 5,741,183)

Acres discloses:

a. As per claim 1

- at least one power connection, (col.10, lines 25)
- a communication connection configured to communicate with a master gaming controller of the gaming machine;(col.10, lines 42-56)
- at least one standard receptor slot; (col.16, lines 56-65)
- a daughter board configured to plug into the receptor slot of the main communication board and thereby provide a specified communication format for allowing the gaming machine to

communicate. (col.9, lines 45-67), (col.10, lines 42-56), (col.19, lines 7-25)

- b. As per claims 2 and 18, the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine device. (col.22, lines 64-67), (col.23, lines 1-10)
- c. As per claims 3 and 19, the gaming machine device is a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign. (col. 19, lines 26-37)
- d. As per claims 4 and 21, the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine network. (col.16, lines 45-55)
- e. As per claims 5 and 22, the gaming machine network is a casino area network or a wide area progressive network. (col.16, lines 45-55)
- f. As per claims 6, 14, and 16, the communication format is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop and USB. (col.9, lines 53-54)
- g. As per claims 7 and 15, the communication connection between the main communication board and the master gaming controller is configured for an RS-232 communication format or a USB communication format. (col.9, lines 45-67)
- h. As per claims 8 and 24, the standard receptor 5 slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector. (col.10, lines 17-24)

- j. As per claims 9 and 26, the standard receptor slot is configured to accept a connector with one or more ground pins and one or more power pins wherein the ground pins are longer than the power pins on the connector. (col.10, lines 17-24)
- k. As per claim 10, the standard receptor is configured to supply power and a communication signal to the daughter board when the daughter board is plugged into the standard receptor slot. (col.10, lines 17-24)
- l. As per claims 11 and 25, the power connection is configured to receive power from a substantially non-varying power source. (col.10, lines 17-24)
- m. As per claim 12, a second power connection wherein the second power connection is configured to receive power from a power source which is shut off by a switch within the gaming machine. (col.10, lines 17-24)
- n. As per claim 13, the gaming machine is a traditional slot game, a video slot game, a video poker game, keno game, or a lottery game. (col.16, lines 45-52)
- o. As per claim 14,
- a standard connector for plugging into a standard receptor slot of a main communication board on the gaming machine and for receiving the signals in the first communication format from the master gaming controller; (col.10, lines 17-24)
 - conversion circuitry for converting signals from said first communication format to said second communication format; (col.10, lines 41-67)

- an output mechanism coupled to said conversion circuitry and allowing transmission of signals in said second format, wherein the standard connector is employed in a plurality of daughter boards providing conversions between differing communications formats. (col.10, lines 17-34)

p. As per claim 20, an optocoupler integrated circuit wherein in the optocoupler integrated circuit is configured to provide electrical isolation between the gaming machine device and the main communication board or electrical isolation between the gaming machine network and the main communication board. (col.9, lines 38-42)

q. As per claim 23, the output mechanism is a fiber optic cable, a ribbon line cable, twisted pair cable or other wire medium. (col.10, lines 17-34)

r. As per claim 28, an echo disable circuitry wherein the echo disable circuitry is configured to receive a signal that disables the transmission of signals from the output mechanism. (col.10, lines 41-67)

4. Claims 29-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Niizuma et al. (U.S Patent 6,338,105)

Niizuma discloses:

a. As per claim 29,

- providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which first daughter board converts signals in a first

communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a second communications format for transmission; (col.3, lines 32-67), (col.5, lines 1-67), (col.6, lines 28-63), (col.20, lines 17-20)

- replacing the first daughter board with a second daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a communications format, other than the first communication format, for transmission. (col. 5, lines 1-67), (col.6, lines 28-63), (col.20, lines 17-20)

b. As per claim 30,

- providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which first daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a second communications format for transmission to the gaming machine device; (col.4, lines 43-67), (col.5, lines 1-67), (col.6, lines 28-63), (col.20, lines 17-20)
- providing a second daughter board in a second standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a third communications format for transmission to the gaming machine network; (col. 6, lines 28-63), (col.20, lines 17-20)

- replacing the first daughter board with a third daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main communication board while the second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a third communications format for transmission to the gaming machine network. (col.6, lines 28-63), (col.20, lines 17-20)
- c. As per claim 31, the gaming machine network is a casino area network or a wide area progressive network. (col.91, lines 5-12)
- d. As per claim 32, the third communication format is a fiber optic communication standard. (col.3, lines 32-50)
- e. As per claim 33, the first communication format is an RS-232 communication standard. (col.12, lines 36)
- f. As per claim 34, the gaming machine device is selected from a group consisting of a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign. (col.12, lines 66-67)
- g. As per claim 35, the second communication format is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop and USB. (col.12, line 36)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acres et al. (U.S Patent 5,741,183) in view of Niizuma et al. (U.S Patent 6,338,105)

Acres discloses all the limitations as above except the limitation that communication format is a Fiber Optic standard as claimed in claim 27. However, Niizuma discloses the signal transmission path , wired data signal lines or wireless radio communication channels or optical communications channels or a combination of these can be used.

It would have been obvious one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Niizuma's teaching into Acres's method to have a Fiber Optic format so as to be compatible with the latest advancements in communication system technology.

Conclusion

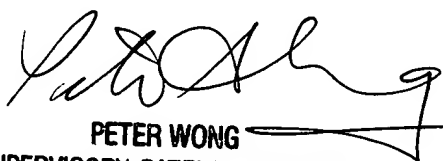
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (703)305-5384 or via e-mail addressed to [kim.huynh3@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Wong can be reached on (703)305-3477 or via e-mail addressed to [Peter.Wong@uspto.gov]. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)746-7249 for regular communications and (703)746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5631.

Kim Huynh

Oct. 19, 2002


PETER WONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100